

Executive Summary

Seven of the eight **Part I Crime (Serious Crimes)** categories experienced decreases during 2003 compared to 2002. **Homicide** increased by 2 cases or 6.9%. **Rape** decreased by 23 cases or 9.8%. **Robberies** decreased by 91 cases or 5.4%. **Aggravated Assault** decreased by 249 cases or 5.5%. **Burglaries** decreased by 261 cases or 4.6%. **Theft** decreased by 1,792 cases or 8.6%. **Motor Vehicle Theft** decreased by 153 cases or 4.4%. **Arson** decreased by 48 cases or 13.3%.

There were 34,154 offenses classified as **Part I Crime** during 2003. This represents a decrease of 2,615 crimes or 7.1% compared to the 36,769 Part I crimes reported during 2002. **Part I crimes is the lowest reported since 1976.**

Part I Violent Crime decreased by 361 cases (down 5.5%) with 6,170 cases in 2003 compared to 6,531 cases in 2002. Part I Violent Crime is below the previous 5-year average of 6,284.

Homicide was the only Part I crime to increase in 2003 compared to 2002. The number of homicides is above the previous 5-year average of 29 cases. Homicide increased by two cases to 31 cases during 2003. Six of the homicides occurred in North Point Precinct, five occurred in both the Woodlawn and Essex Precincts, four occurred in Franklin Precinct, three occurred in White Marsh Precinct, and two each occurred in Wilkens, Towson, Cockeysville, and Parkville Precincts.

The total number of **rapes** decreased from 234 cases during 2002 to 211 cases in 2003, a decrease of 23 cases or 9.8%. The number of rapes is below the previous 5-year average of 223. The number of rapes decreased in every Precinct except the Franklin, Parkville, and Essex Precincts, which experienced a 6, 3, and 2 case increase respectively. The highest volume changes occurred in the Woodlawn Precinct, which had 10 fewer cases and Wilkens Precinct, which had 9 fewer cases. In 58.2% of the cases, the victim knew the suspect prior to the offense.

Robberies decreased from 1,700 cases during 2002 to 1,609 cases in 2003, a decrease of 91 cases or 5.4%. The number of robberies is below the previous 5-year average of 1,717. The number of robberies increased in the Franklin, Cockeysville, Parkville and Essex Precincts. All other precincts reported decreases with the greatest decreases occurring in North Point, which had 38 fewer cases (down 16.3%); Towson, which had 37 fewer cases (down 20.4%); and Woodlawn, which had 26 fewer cases (down 9.5%). Decreases were reported in all methods of attack except for those committed with a “knife or cutting instrument,” which increased from 133 cases to 167 cases. Convenience Store robberies fell by 43 cases, from 116 cases in 2002 to 73 cases in 2003, a decline of 37.1%.

The number of **aggravated assaults** decreased from 4,568 cases in 2002 to 4,319 cases in 2003, a decrease of 249 cases or 5.5%. The number of aggravated assaults is above the previous 5-year average of 4,315. The number of aggravated assaults increased in the Parkville and Essex Precincts. The number of aggravated assaults decreased in all other precincts. The greatest volume changes were in North Point Precinct, which had 78 fewer cases (down 10.0%); and, White Marsh Precinct, which also had 78 fewer cases (down 15.8%).

Part I Property Crimes decreased from 30,238 offenses in 2002 to 27,984 offenses in 2003, a decrease of 2,254 incidents or 7.5%. **Part I Property crimes were the fewest number reported since 1973.**

Burglaries decreased by 261 cases (down 4.6%), from 5,633 offenses in 2002 to 5,372 offenses in 2003. The number of burglaries is below the previous 5-year average of 6,054, and **is the lowest reported since**

1970. The number of offenses decreased in all precincts, with the exception of Woodlawn Precinct, which experienced a 21 case increase (up 2.9%); and Cockeysville Precinct, which had a 2 case increase (up 0.5%). The greatest volume change occurred in White Marsh Precinct, which had 74 fewer cases (down 12.5%). The value of property stolen during burglaries increased by 1.2%, from \$7,921,218 in 2002 to \$8,012,332 in 2003.

The number of **thefts** decreased from 20,778 cases during 2002 to 18,986 cases during 2003, a decrease of 1,792 cases or 8.6%. The number of thefts is below the previous 5-year average of 21,204, **and is the fewest reported since 1973.** The number of thefts decreased in every precinct in Baltimore County except Franklin Precinct which experienced a 38 case increase (up 1.3%) and Essex Precinct which experienced a 2 case increase (up 0.1%). The greatest volume decreases occurred in North Point Precinct, which experienced a 730 case decrease (down 22.5%); Parkville Precinct, which experienced a 339 case decrease (down 21.9%); and Cockeysville Precinct, which experienced a 250 case decrease (down 13.2%). The value of property stolen during thefts decreased 7.79% from \$14,022,099 in 2002 to \$12,930,405 in 2003.

The number of **motor vehicle thefts** decreased by 153 cases or 4.4% from 3,465 cases in 2002 to 3,312 cases in 2003. The number of motor vehicle thefts is above the previous 5-year average of 3,283. The number of motor vehicle thefts decreased in all precincts, with the exception of Woodlawn, which experienced an increase of 14 cases (up 2.5%); Essex, which experienced an increase of 67 cases (up 17.8%), and Towson Precinct which experienced neither an increase or a decrease, remaining at 239 cases. The greatest decrease in the number of motor vehicle thefts was observed in Franklin Precinct, which had 58 fewer cases (down 9.9%). The number of autos stolen decreased 13.1% from 2,225 in 2002 to 1,934 in 2003.

There was a tendency for certain vehicle makes and models to be targeted in Baltimore County. The following table identifies the ten most frequently stolen makes and models during 2003.

<u>Vehicle Make and Model</u>	<u>Number Stolen</u>	<u>% of Total Motor Vehicle Thefts</u>
Dodge Caravan/Grand Caravan	163	5.7%
Jeep Cherokee/Grand Cherokee	119	4.2%
Honda Accord	101	3.5%
Dodge/Plymouth Neon	96	3.4%
Plymouth Voyager/Grand Voyager	75	2.6%
Honda Civic	59	2.1%
Dodge Spirit	58	2.0%
Chevrolet Cavalier	52	1.8%
Plymouth Acclaim	45	1.6%
Ford Taurus	41	1.4%

Note: The number of vehicles stolen presented in the above table are taken from the Regional Crime Analysis System. Percentages are calculated based upon RCAS totals.

Arson decreased by 48 cases or 13.3% from 362 reported arsons in 2002 to 314 reported arsons in 2003. The number of arsons is below the previous 5-year average of 354. All precincts experienced a reduction in arson with the exception of Parkville where arsons remained the same as 2002 with 17 cases. The greatest volume decreases occurred in Wilkens with 10 fewer cases (down 30.3%), Woodlawn with 10 fewer cases (down 20.0%), and North Point with 10 fewer cases (down 12.3%).

Less serious crime (Part II offenses) increased from 40,716 offenses in 2002 to 41,155 offenses in 2003. This is an increase of 439 cases (up 1.1%) and is above the previous 5-year average of 40,507. Part II crime increased in every precinct except Woodlawn, which experienced a decrease of 70 cases (down 1.4%), Towson which experienced a decrease of 14 cases (down 0.4%), Parkville which experienced a decrease of 7 cases (down 0.2%), and North Point which experienced a decrease of 273 cases (down 4.1%). The greatest volume change was observed in Franklin Precinct where Part II crime increased by 287 cases (up 4.9%).

Note: The increase in juvenile arrests noted during 2003 reflects delays in processing Juvenile Referral Forms #117 noted in last year's quarterly reports.